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HATHAWAY IS BIGGER THAN LIFE

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NUNES STEPS DOWN FROM HOUSE RUSSIA PROBE

1 The Republican head of a congressional inquiry into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election said he would temporarily step aside from the probe on Thursday because he is under investigation for disclosing classified information. Devin Nunes, chairman of the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and an ally of Republican President Donald Trump,

characterized charges that he made unauthorized disclosures of classified information as "entirely false and politically motivated." The surprise disclosure that Nunes was under investigation injected new uncertainty into the wider Russia probe by his committee. REUTERS

JOHN GLENN LAID TO REST AT ARLINGTON

2 John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth who later became the world's oldest astronaut and a longtime U.S. senator, was laid to rest on Thursday at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Glenn, who author Tom Wolfe once called "the last true national hero America has ever had," died four months ago in his home state of Ohio at the age of 95. After a private service at a chapel on the cemetery grounds, a horse-drawn carriage pulled Glenn's flag-draped casket to his burial site. There was a short graveside ceremony broadcast online by NASA Television. Then, Gen. Robert Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, handed the flag that had draped the casket to Glenn's 97-year-old widow, Annie Glenn. She kissed him. REUTERS

COMIC DON RICKLES DEAD AT AGE 90

3 Don Rickles, the master insult comic who created laughs with ridicule and sarcasm in a decades-long career that earned him the facetious nickname "Mr. Warmth," died on Thursday at his Los Angeles home from kidney failure, his publicist said. He was 90. Rickles, who said he devised his brand of mockery-based humor because he was no good at telling traditional jokes, had

developed a bacterial infection in recent months that led him to cancel a number of performances. His death was confirmed by his spokesman, Paul Shefrin, who said Rickles is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara, as well as their daughter, Mindy Mann, and two grandchildren. He would have turned 91 on May 8. REUTERS

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

FIRST SUMMIT

4 President Donald Trump boards Air Force One under heavy rain at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. Donald Trump will host Chinese President Xi Jinping at his sun-kissed Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida on Thursday, a high-stakes first summit replete with pitfalls for both leaders. GETTY IMAGES

LYFT VALUED AT $7.5B IN NEW FUNDING ROUND

5 Ride services company Lyft Inc. has nearly completed a funding round of at least $500 million, valuing the company at $7.5 billion, according to a source close to the company. San Francisco-based Lyft has been in fundraising mode for some time as it spends heavily to compete with its much bigger rival Uber Technologies Inc. The $7.5 billion valuation marks a sharp increase from the $5.5 billion

valuation at Lyft's last financing more than a year ago. Lyft had previously expected to command a valuation of between $6 billion and $7 billion in its newest funding round, but the source said the valuation had been revised upward. REUTERS

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NIKKI M. MASCALI, WEB PRODUCER

Does Donald Trump Jr. have his eyes on New York's governor's office? The eldest son of President Trump admitted that "going back to doing deals is boring" after being on the campaign trail for 18 months. Find out more at **metro.us.**

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Pennsylvania monsignor to plead guilty to embezzling $500,000

Much of the stolen money came from insurance payments for priests who died.

A Catholic monsignor will plead guilty to embezzling over a half-million dollars from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia over nine years to pay gambling debts, buy concert tickets and enjoy expensive meals, his lawyer and authorities said Thursday.

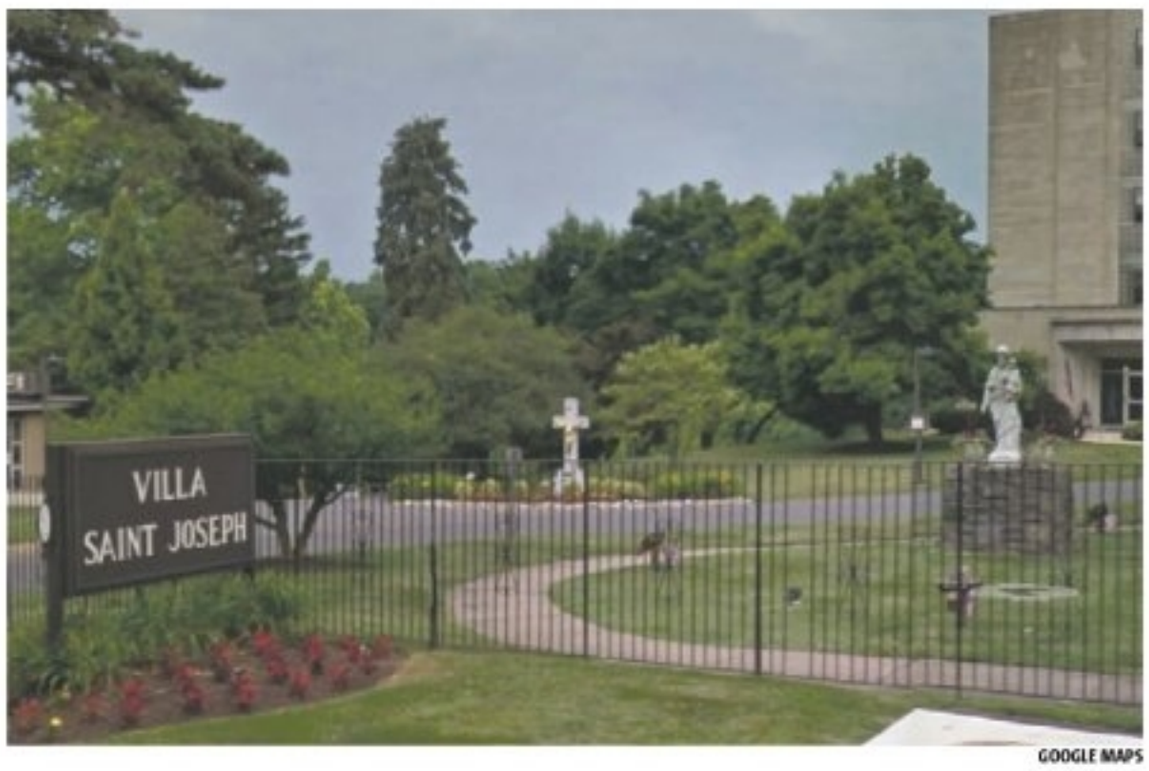
Monsignor William Dombrow, 77, was rector of Villa Saint Joseph, a retirement home for aged and infirm priests in Darby, outside of Philadelphia. The facility also houses priests accused of sexual abuse.

"He accepts full responsibility and has cooperated with authorities from the beginning," said his lawyer, Coley Reynolds. "He is ashamed and remorseful, and hopes he can someday redeem himself in the eyes of the archdiocese and parishioners."

Dombrow waived preliminary arraignment on four counts of wire fraud and is expected to have a guilty plea hearing later this month, said Michele Mucellin, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Dombrow had sole control of a Villa Saint Joseph bank account used to deposit bequests and life insurance proceeds intended to benefit the home, court documents said.

Prosecutors say the monsignor stole $535,258 between 2007 and 2016. Last year the bank became suspicious and alerted the archdiocese.



GOOGLE MAPS

One of the stolen checks was a $14,410 payment from the estate of Francis P. Rogers, according to court documents. Rogers was one of the priests named in a 2005 grand jury report on sexually abused children. He died in 2005 at Villa Saint Joseph.

Church officials froze the account and notified law enforcement, said Ken Gavin, a spokesman for the archdiocese. The church suspended Dombrow as an administrator at Villa Saint Joseph and as a priest, he said.

Dombrow faces a statutory maximum of 80 years in prison on the charges, but would likely receive far less under sentencing guidelines. His lawyer would not say how long of a sentence they expect him to receive.

"He accepts full responsibility and has cooperated with authorities from the beginning."
Coley Reynolds

He has been charged in a criminal information, which typically means that the defendant is cooperating with investigators. REUTERS

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$70M Amazon app store refund in the works — are you entitled to part of it?

The online retailer will reimburse unauthorized purchases kids made via its app and virtual assistant.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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"Alexa, how do I get my Amazon app store refund?" is a question many parents may soon be asking their virtual assistant.

After a yearlong appeals process with the Federal Trade Commission, the online retailer will shell out more than $70 million for unauthorized in-app purchases kids made without their parents' approval.

Amazon will begin issuing refunds soon on the purchases made via its app and virtual assistant Alexa through its Echo Dot smart speaker, the FTC said. More details on the refunds are forthcoming, but purchases made between November 2011 and May 2016 could be eligible for reimbursement.

"This case demonstrates what should be a bedrock principle for all companies — you must get customers' consent before you charge them," Thomas B. Pahl, acting director for the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said.

One example of an Amazon app store purchase made without parental consent is an incident with the Echo Dot that went viral earlier this year.

Brook Neitzel, 6, asked Alexa to get her cookies and a dollhouse. Soon after, both arrived on her doorstep, puzzling her mother, Megan Neitzel, who later found out what happened and promptly put a requirement for a security code on future purchases through Alexa on her account.

Instead of sending the items back, the Neitzels ate the cookies, which were Royal Dansk Danish Butter Cookies, if you're interested, and donated the KidKraft Sparkle Mansion dollhouse to charity.

Apple and Google also had similar cases filed with the FTC.

A federal district court ruled in April 2016 that Amazon billed consumers without authorization, and appeals soon followed, which included the FTC wanting an injunction that would prevent unauthorized future purchases. The FTC voted 2-0 to withdraw its appeal this week.

Amazon will shell out to parents whose kids made unauthorized app store purchases. WIKIMEDIA

The Amazon.com Inc. app is displayed on an Apple Inc. GETTY IMAGES

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Senate goes 'nuclear,' ends Democrats' blockade

The Senate's action cleared the way to confirm Gorsuch. The rule change was called the "nuclear option" because it was considered an extreme break with Senate tradition.

Senate Republicans on Thursday crushed a Democratic blockade of President Donald Trump's U.S. Supreme Court nominee in a fierce partisan brawl, approving a rule change dubbed the "nuclear option" to allow for conservative judge Neil Gorsuch's confirmation by Friday.

With ideological control of the nation's highest court at stake, the Republican-led Senate voted 52-48 along party lines to change its long-standing rules in order to prohibit a procedural tactic called a filibuster against Supreme Court nominees. That came after Republicans failed by a 55-45 tally to muster the 60-vote super-majority needed to end the Democratic filibuster that had sought to deny Gorsuch confirmation to the lifetime post.

Trump had encouraged Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to "go nuclear." Confirmation of Gorsuch would represent Trump's first major victory since taking office on Jan. 20, after setbacks on health care legislation and blocking of his order to prevent people from several Muslim-majority nations from entering the United States.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, gives a thumbs up while walking out of the Senate floor after passing a "nuclear option" rule change at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. GETTY IMAGES

Senate confirmation of Gorsuch, a Colorado-based federal appeals could judge, would restore the nine-seat court's 5-4 conservative majority, enable Trump to leave an indelible mark on America's highest judicial body and fulfill a top campaign promise by the Republican president. Gorsuch, 49, could be expected to serve for decades.

"This will be the first and last partisan filibuster of the Supreme Court," McConnell said on the Senate floor, accusing Democrats of trying to inflict political damage on Trump and to keep more conservatives from joining the high court.

"In 20 or 30 or 40 years, we will sadly point to today as a turning point in the history of the Senate and the Supreme Court, a day when we irrevocably moved further away from the principles our founders intended for these institutions: principles of bipartisanship, moderation and consensus," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on the Senate floor.

Schumer ridiculed McConnell's contention that the Democratic action was unprecedented. He noted the Republican-led Senate refused last year to consider Democratic former President Barack Obama's nomination of appellate judge Merrick Garland for the same seat that Trump selected Gorsuch to fill following the death of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016.

With three of the court's justices 78 or older, Trump told reporters he hoped to appoint as many as four Supreme Court justices, a move likely to make it overwhelmingly conservative.

"In fact, under a certain scenario there could even be more than that," Trump said aboard Air Force One en route to a meeting with China's president in Florida, adding that the Senate rule change would not alter how he picks court nominees.

Gorsuch could be sworn in as early as Friday, with a formal ceremony expected at the White House next week, a White House official said. That would allow him to begin preparing for the court's next session of oral arguments, starting on April 17. REUTERS

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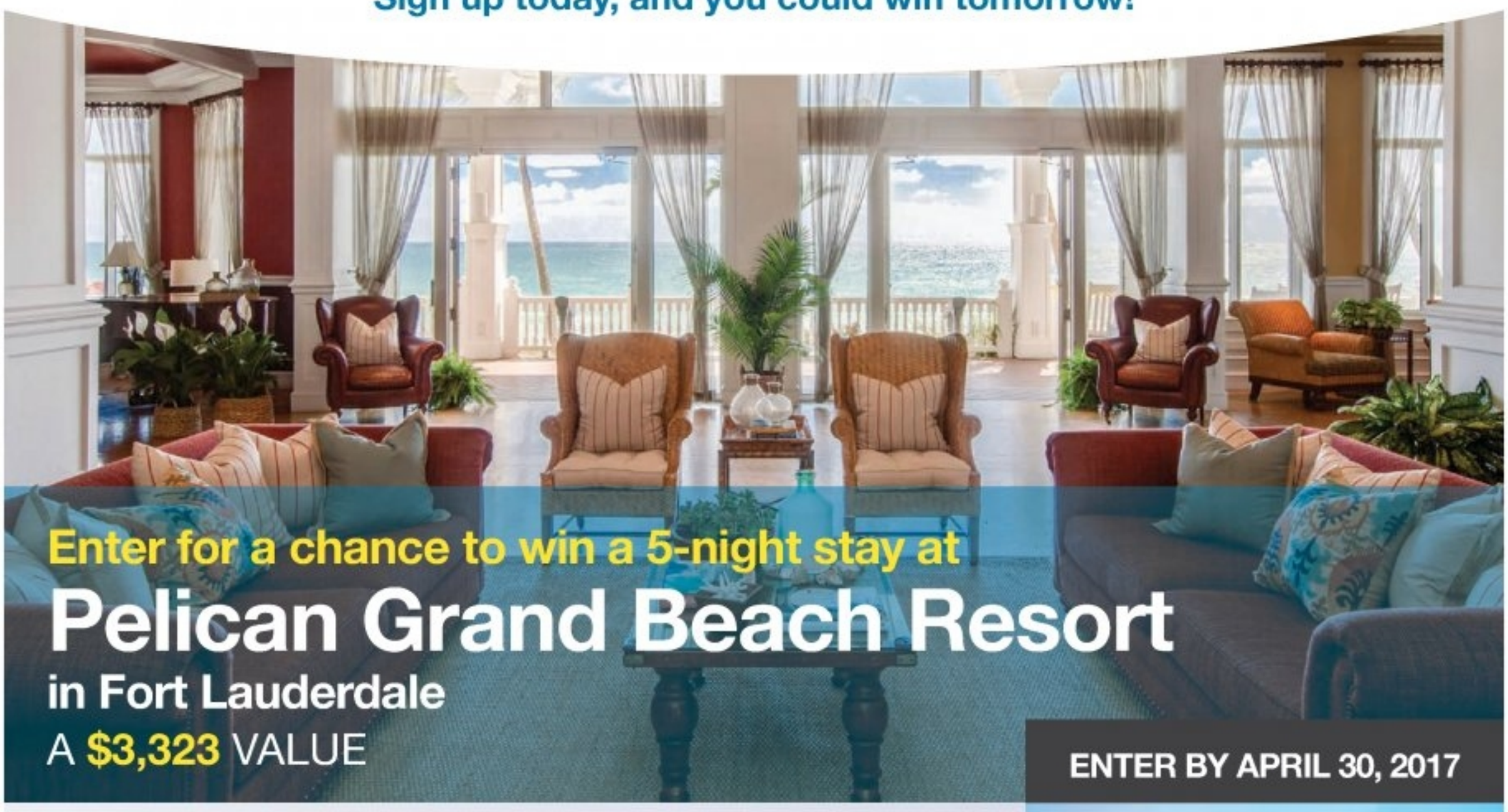

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter refuses US order to reveal user behind anti-Trump account

Twitter Inc. filed a federal lawsuit to block an order by the U.S. government demanding that it reveal who is behind an account opposed to President Trump's tough immigration policies.

Citing freedom of speech as a basis for not turning over records, Twitter filed the lawsuit in federal court in San Francisco and said that the account, @ALT_uscis, claimed to be run by at least one federal immigration employee. The acronym CIS refers to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the account describes itself as "immigration resistance."

Trump has vowed to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico and has promised to deport millions of illegal immigrants.

Following Trump's inauguration in January, anonymous Twitter feeds that borrowed the names and logos of more than a dozen U.S. government agencies appeared to challenge the president's views on climate change and other issues.

A Twitter spokesman declined to comment on whether the government demanded information about other accounts critical of Trump.

Twitter, which counts Trump among its active users, has a record of litigating in favor of user privacy.

"The rights of free speech afforded Twitter's users and Twitter itself under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution include a right to disseminate such anonymous or pseudonymous political speech," Twitter said in the lawsuit.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is a defendant in the lawsuit, declined to comment on pending litigation. The Justice Department, which typically represents federal agencies in court, also declined to comment. REUTERS

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THE 51% GOVERNMENT

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

Thirty years of marriage have taught me a few things. For example, you can't wash red T-shirts with anything else, and I have a drawer full of pink underwear to prove it. As much as I like Popeye's, it's not worth the arched eyebrows from my wife except once in a great while. And starting a fight is a lot easier than ending one.

There is a corollary to that last item: If you're dead set on going to the mat over some issue, you'd better be more than 51% right about it. You need to be deep into the 60 or 70% range or you won't just have a fight — you will trigger a long simmering war of attrition filled with silent car rides, slammed doors, and muttered questions about your parentage.

This is what's wrong with how the Senate is approving the new Supreme Court justice, Neil Gorsuch. No doubt you've heard how the Republicans changed the rules to shove him toward a seat on the court despite Democratic objections. The details are tedious, but effectively instead of needing the customary 60 votes to make it happen, they used the so called "nuclear option" to lower the bar to 51. That's 51 out of 100. And considering they hold 52 seats, that's enough for victory.

So isn't that just democracy in action — the majority ruling? Sure. But a key principle of the Senate has always been that laws and decisions are more robust if they have "buy in" from both sides. When you need 60 votes, you often must give opponents something they can support in your plan, which makes them your allies in its long-term success.

I'm not questioning Gorsuch's qualifications, his Republican support, or his Democratic opposition. What I am saying is in recent years we have descended ever deeper into this dangerous trend: As soon as either party gets 51% of the power, it does whatever it wants and essentially tells the other 49% to go to hell.

And deep down there amid the nuclear fallout, the losers — no matter which party it is at any given time — wait in sizzling fury to renew the fight at the first opportunity.

Neil Gorsuch GETTY IMAGES

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Trump says 'something should happen' with Assad as US weighs military options

The poison gas attack on Tuesday in the rebel-held Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed at least 70 people, many of them children, and presented Trump with his biggest foreign policy crisis since he took office.

President Donald Trump said that "something should happen" with President Bashar al-Assad after a deadly poison gas attack in Syria, as the Pentagon and the White House launched detailed discussions on military options.

While Trump stopped short of calling on Assad to leave office, the comments were his strongest suggestion yet that the United States may be edging toward a stronger stance against Assad, an ally of Iran and Russia, whose country has been torn apart by six years of civil war.

"I think what Assad did is terrible," Trump told reporters traveling with him on Air Force One en route to Florida.

Washington has blamed the attack on the Syrian government, putting it at odds with Russia, which has air and ground forces in Syria.

Trump has until now focused his Syria policy almost exclusively on defeating Islamic State militants in northern Syria, where U.S. special forces are working with Arab and Kurdish armed groups.

Only last week, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said the U.S. diplomatic policy on Syria for now was no longer focused on making

Trump

Mattis

Assad

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

> *"I think what happened in Syria is a disgrace to humanity and he's there, and I guess he's running things, so something should happen."*
>
> Trump

Assad leave power.

The gas attack in Idlib province outraged the world. Trump said on Wednesday it had caused him to think again about Assad.

A U.S. official said options being discussed by the Pentagon and White House after the gas attack could include grounding aircraft used by Assad's forces, the official added.

Such options would also include the use of cruise missiles, allowing the United States to strike targets without putting piloted aircraft in the skies above Syria.

Striking Assad could put the United States on a collision course with Russia, which intervened on the Syrian president's side in 2015, turning the tide of the conflict against mostly Sunni Muslim rebel groups in his favor.

The U.S. official did not comment on how likely military action might be or suggest which, if any, options might be recommended by the Pentagon.

The official added that U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster had already been in talks on the matter.

Mattis will presumably discuss the options when he meets with Trump at his Mar-a-Lago retreat in Florida, the official said. Mattis is due in Florida later on Thursday as part of a scheduled trip.

U.S. intelligence agencies suspect that Assad kept some of the chemical weapons or components that he agreed to surrender under a U.S.-Russian deal that followed a chemical weapons attack on the outskirts of Damascus in 2013, a U.S. intelligence official said on Thursday.

"We have never taken the Assad regime at its word that it declared its entire chemical weapons stockpile," the official said. REUTERS

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Anne Hathaway vs. Jason Sudeikis

In "Colossal," in theaters Fri., Apr. 14, Jason Sudeikis and Anne Hathaway play old school chums who reconnect — as she learns she can control a giant monster terrorizing Seoul, South Korea. NEON

"Colossal" pits the two actors against each other in one of the strangest plots in memory.

MATT PRIGGE
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In person, Anne Hathaway and Jason Sudeikis are buds. They don't get along so well in "Colossal." In the sci-fi comedy-drama, the Oscar-winning actress plays Gloria, a 30-something hot mess who's forced — thanks in part to a considerable drinking problem — to ditch New York and return to her middle-of-nowhere New Jersey hometown. There, she reconnects with Sudeikis' Oscar, an old friend from school, and learns something truly bizarre: She has the power to control a giant kaiju monster that wreaks havoc in South Korea. Dubbed "the Anne Hathaway Godzilla movie" when it premiered at the Toronto Film Festival, it's also a dark look at friendship, particularly once Oscar turns out to be not as nice as he seems.

We talked to Hathaway and Sudeikis, 34 and 41, respectively, about why people should see "Colossal" in the theaters and how parenthood — and making the movie — has made them more empathetic.

This is a conversation-starter. One thing people can talk about is Oscar. He's a "nice guy," but like some "nice guys" he can be as twisted and evil as any sexist pig. If he were on the internet, he'd probably be a men's rights activist.

Jason Sudeikis: If you really follow the internet troll from their Twitter avatar to who they actually are, I don't think all of them are going to be 400 pounds and living in their parents' basement. I think they might be in the cubicle next to you.

Anne Hathaway: Or coaching your kid's soccer game.

Sudeikis: Or your doctor. Sometimes that anonymity has the tendency to bring out the worst in us.

The internet has unlocked our inner sociopaths. We can be too brutally honest.

Hathaway: I'm fine with brutal honesty. But I don't like when someone says to me — and I haven't had my coffee — "Oh my God, you are so much better-looking in movies." I don't like it when people get high on hurting me. But if people represent themselves in an honest way that's kind to both of us, that evokes grace and dignity, I'm fine with that.

"Colossal" also touches on anxieties people have about returning to their hometowns. That's even more pronounced now, to those of us who come from places that have turned into Trump Country.

Sudeikis: I would argue it's maybe a good time to go home now. Both sides need to see each other. Not to be high-falutin'; I'm from Kansas, so I get it. But playing someone like Oscar, who hasn't left home, it forced me to empathize with him. He's someone one could judge. I've probably done that throughout my life.

GETTY

Both sides talking to each other will happen at some point. Right now I think we're still a little shellshocked.

Sudeikis: All the world is asking for is for everyone to get along. That might be why technology exists: not to push everyone away or snipe at each other from afar, but to empathize. Maybe that's what VR's purpose will be. It won't just be video games and porn, but actual, true empathy — to see the world through someone else's eyes.

Hathaway: Think about that poor woman who was harassed online by that poor man. She was just trying to play a game, and he kept trying to grab her boobs. I don't know what we're going to get by calling that man a deviant and a pervert and shaming him. We need to find that dude, sit him down and say, "Do you know what you're doing is disrespecting another human being?" And I'm not actually a bleeding-heart person. I'm think I'm newly interested in having those conversations now that I'm a parent.

Sudeikis: That's happened to me, too. Being a parent has made me think like that as well.

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5 Things you can't miss at Camden Comic Con

Cosplay, anyone?

MIKE FENN
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The Camden Comic Con returns to the campus of Rutgers University Camden for the fourth year in a row. PROVIDED

In recent years, smaller comic conventions have risen as a result of their larger counterparts. One such local gathering is the Camden Comic Con, which will take over several buildings on the campus of Rutgers University Camden this Saturday.

"I started Camden Comic Con as a bit of a dejected attendee of large scale cons," co-organizer William Haas says. He adds that, while the larger conventions are no doubt enjoyable, their "massive size" and "celebrity-heavy nature" tend to turn off longtime fans, especially those on a budget. Thus, Haas and fellow organizers Miranda Powell, Alexis Weaver, Patrick Wallace and Chrissie King are dedicated to bringing a successful — and free — show to local fans.

Here's what to expect:

1 Cosplay

Fans who dress as their favorite comic book character are welcome to participate in the highly popular costume contest at the convention.

2 Workshops

In keeping with the convention's educational theme, a number of industry-themed workshops will be offered to fans. According to Haas, highlights of these workshops include How to be a Professional Geek and the puppetry workshop, run by Noel MacNeal of "Bear in the Big Blue House" fame.

If you go

Camden Comic Con
April 8
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Rutgers University-Camden
301 Linden St., Camden
camdencomiccon.com
Free admission

3 Guests

Personalities representing all facets of the comic book industry will be on hand to meet and chat with their legions of fans. "Nowhere else can you meet the likes of [comic artists and writers] Amy Chu, Dean Haspiel, Larry Hama, Carl Potts and Fred Van Lente without waiting in a long line and for free," Haas said.

4 Food

Guests are encouraged to grab a bite to eat from one of several vendors taking part in the convention's Mini Food Truck festival, including Wahlburgers and the Pop Shop.

5 Music

The Elegance String Quartet will be performing numbers from popular "geeky" favorites, including "Star Wars" and "The Legend of Zelda."

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"Going in Style"

Director: Zach Braff
Stars: Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Alan Arkin
Rating: PG-13

●●○○○

Alan Arkin, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine want to rob a bank in Zach Braff's "Going in Style." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The best thing you can say about Zach Braff's "Going in Style" is that it doesn't feel like a Zach Braff movie, like "Garden State." That's not true: The best thing you can say is it has some predictably charming work from its three leads, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman and Alan Arkin. It has a tiny bit of bite, concerning three wrinkly retirees who rob a bank — not because they're greedy, but because they've been screwed by greedy banks and greedy corporations. Still, if you showed it back-to-back with Braff's "Garden State" and told viewers it came from the same artist, they'd never believe you. In fact, maybe they'd wish you were lying.

When he made "Garden State" 14 years ago, Braff was then known as that mugging, lovable doctor from "Scrubs." So he pulled a classic career move, making a movie that revealed he was a sensitive (though still quirky!) soul. The movie earned him untold fans, but also untold enemies, who couldn't stand a movie that featured both painfully sincere shilling for The Shins and a sight gag about a dude eating breakfast dressed like a medieval knight. Neither "sensitive" nor "quirky" describes "Going in Style." It's exactly what you'd expect from a movie in which three screen legends in their 70s and 80s stick up a bank. You probably wouldn't even be surprised to learn they do it while wearing Rat Pack masks.

Braff directs as though following a how-to manual. He conforms to every beat of the classic studio comedy, right down to a score that could be labeled "goofy geriatric bank robber comedy music." Apart from a disastrously conceived and staged set piece where our heroes try to rob the ingredients for chicken cordon bleu from a Bushwick supermarket, it's a well-oiled machine, pausing for small bits of sentimentality here, cranking out a gag about three Oscar-winners debating "The Bachelorette" there. (And you thought Caine missing the '87 Oscars because he was making "Jaws: The Revenge" was humiliating.) It tells you when to laugh, where to get angry, when to get teary, and when to cheer. And when it's over, you'll forget Braff had anything to do with it. But maybe that's for the best. MATT PRIGGE

"Smurfs: The Lost Village"

Director: Kelly Ashbury
Voices of: Demi Lovato, Rainn Wilson
Rating: PG

●●○○○

You skipped the other "Smurfs" movies. They had real people in them — handsomely paid actors like Neil Patrick Harris hobnobbing with little blue CGI whatzits. And you're a grown human. You didn't feel particularly compelled to play completist before seeing the new one. After all, "The Lost Village" has no real people anywhere in it. It's all a toon, which is how the franchise should have rolled from the start, if it ever had to roll at all. Maybe this won't be so bad?

And it isn't. All things considered, it's a slightly better than average episode of the old show, only three times as long. Or so you assume. The show hasn't stuck with you, not the way the more melancholic "Peanuts" has. You don't even remember the Smurfs' names. When you hear "Clumsy Smurf," "Brainy Smurf" and "Hefty Smurf" ("Hefty"?!?!) uttered aloud, they don't sound familiar, not even faintly. You do remember Smurfette, but probably because she was the only girl among the sausage party of Smurf-testosterone. That seems troubling, now that you think about it. A Belgian created the Smurfs; are Belgians really as Cro-Magnon as Americans?

You manage a smile when "The Lost Village" actually addresses the gender issue. The story is a rollicking, action-packed adventure where our heroes try to find an Edenic oasis of other Smurfs, who turn out to be all female. (You recognize Julia Roberts' voice as their leader, then lament that this is probably her highest-profile gig in ages. Show business blows.) But the movie does little with this progressive angle, and you worry that today's clickbait writers may make too much of it — call this one "the Feminist Smurfs movie" or something.

But this isn't a movie made for people who click on articles on Facebook. It was made for kids, very young ones, and the giddy tykes around you giggle, almost at random — as though the mere sight of blue anti-meanies was joy-making in and of itself. You feel a little bad for the writers and animators, who clearly put in some hard work. There are weirdo forest creatures and psychedelic colors, and the cat, Azrael, is a charmer. But they didn't work hard enough to ensure the kids watching it wouldn't mostly forget it, as you mostly forgot the show. MP

Smurfette (voice of Demi Lovato) is front and center in the all-animated new "Smurfs: The Lost Village." SONY

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Today is their grand opening.

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This is the company's third store with the other two locations being 257 S. 20th St. and 932 South St.

Regarding her decision to expand her business to Sansom Street, owner Kristin Lubsen says:

"We look for areas that have a strong local community base and a thriving small business presence, and Sansom Street is the perfect fit. With the growing demand of a health and wellness scene in Philadelphia, we are lucky be able to expand, and look forward to introducing newcomers to our products."

The menu at the new location will include made-to-order smoothies and wheatgrass shots with superfood add-ins. In a rush? Grab and go cold-pressed juices (Radiant Glo is a must-try!) and wellness shots as well as kombuchas from Inspired Brews.

Other offerings include some pretty adorable merch like their enamel fruit and veggie pins, hand-poured cucumber-lemon soy candles by Green Market Purveying Co., house-ground nut butters and house-made seasoned nut blends.

Their official grand opening day at 1700 Sansom is today. Starting at 7:30 a.m., they will be giving away free swag and a wellness shot to the first 50 customers.

For grand opening weekend on April 8 and 9, a portion of profits will benefit Philadelphia Futures, a nonprofit that helps low-income, first generation college students get into college and be successful throughout their college career.

Throughout the rest of April, ditch your usual happy house and bring a friend for Wheatgrass Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. Receive a buy one get one free 1 ounce wheatgrass shot, which comes with a complimentary chaser of coconut, lime and Himalayan sea salt. The best part? No hangover.

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How can a 10-game streak ruin a team's season? Just ask the Flyers

The Flyers may have been better off had they not fired off 10 straight wins this past winter.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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Flyers' fans finally got a look at Sam Morin in his first NHL game earlier this week after the Flyers had been elminated from playoff contention. GETTY IMAGES

It is not often that a 10-game winning streak ends up hurting a team instead of helping it.

However, the Flyers managed to pull it off this season.

While their 10-game winning streak, which spanned from November into December, was a historic stretch, the ramifications of it were ironically detrimental.

The streak created a false impression of how good the team was, which thus prevented the Flyers from heading into the trade deadline as sellers, delayed the promotion of prospects and hurt their draft status.

Let's take a deeper look.

False impression

After their 10th straight win on Dec. 14, the Flyers were two points back of first place in the Metropolitan Division. The thought was it no longer was a matter of if the Flyers would make the playoffs but rather what playoff spot they'd hold.

As we learned, the streak was a mirage.

They played as poorly for the rest of the season as they had prior to the streak and became the first NHL team to miss the playoffs during a year they had a 10-game winning streak.

Ultimately, the streak masked such deficiencies as too many defensive breakdowns and inconsistent special teams and goaltending — all of which greatly contributed to a disappointing finish and must be addressed this summer.

Trade deadline

Thanks to the streak, general manager Ron Hextall was not a seller at the end of February. He dealt Mark Streit, whose contract expired at the end of the season, for veteran Valtteri Filppula, who carries a $5 million cap hit next year.

If the Flyers were buried in the standings, maybe Hextall swaps Streit, one of his goalies and other veterans for draft picks, which could have opened up spots for prospects.

Which leads us to …

Promoting prospects

Sam Morin, one of the Flyers' highly touted prospects, made his NHL debut on Tuesday against the Devils. It is no coincidence that the 2013 first-round pick (11th overall) was called up after the Flyers were officially eliminated from making the playoffs.

It's apparent Hextall didn't want to prematurely wave the white flag until the team was completely out of the postseason picture before turning the page to 2017-18.

So instead of getting a 10- to 12-game sample if called up in March, Morin will play three games. By not creating any other room at the trade deadline, other potential early call-ups like goalie Anthony Stolarz and defensemen Robert Hagg and Travis Sanheim will miss out on gaining valuable experience in the NHL.

Draft

If the Flyers only gained 10 points instead of 20 during the streak, they would have a top-five pick in the draft rather than No. 11, where they are slotted heading into Wednesday, and a better shot at winning the lottery to pick first overall.

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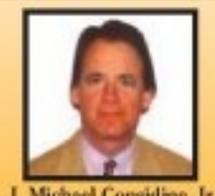
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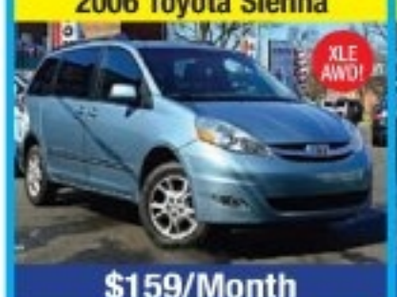

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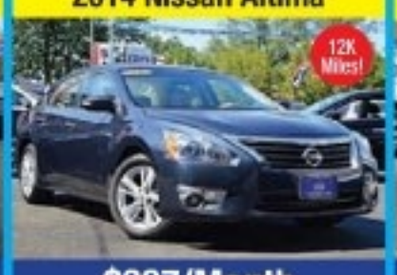
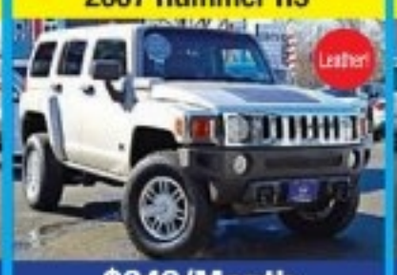


2014 Nissan Altima — 12K Miles! — $307/Month

2011 Infiniti G — Leather! — $329/Month



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2014 Nissan Pathfinder S — Leather! — $379/Month

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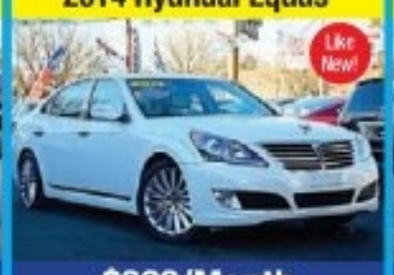

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Phillies look like lackluster old selves as they drop first series of new season

Two home runs from new Phillies outfielder Daniel Nava wasn't enough to salvage a victory.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Daniel Nava made a strong case for more playing time Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

In a 7-4 loss to drop their first series of the season in Cincinnati on Thursday, some familiar flaw emerged.

A lack of run support and a bullpen implosion gave away a three-run lead on a chilly day in Ohio and had the Phillies scratching their heads after a promising Opening Day four days prior.

Daniel Nava became the first big leaguer to homer twice in his first two at-bats as a Phillie since Jeremy Giambi in 2002 (and the third ever).

Unfortunately, spotting the Phillies a 4-1 lead wasn't enough insurance as starter Clay Buchholz buckled a bit after the Reds rallied off three runs in the fourth inning.

In the sixth, Adam Morgan gave up a solo shot to relief pitcher Michael Lorenzen to give Cincy a 5-4 advantage — the first pinch hit homer by a pitcher since 2009.

Cincinnati padded its lead with two more runs in the seventh and the team failed to rally in the later innings.

The Reds bullpen threw six scoreless innings (and added a home run) in their win.

The Phillies leave Cincinnati on getaway day and will return to Philadelphia for the first home series of the season, a 3:05 start against the Nationals.

Vince Velasquez will take the hill to kick things off (weather permitting) against Washington on Friday before handing it off to Aaron Nola, the Phillies' final starter on a Saturday evening tilt. Game 3 of the series will put both the Nationals and Phillies' aces on their respective mounds as Jeremy Hellickson and Stephen Strasburg do battle in a 1:35 Sunday matinee.

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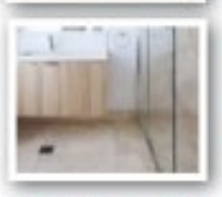

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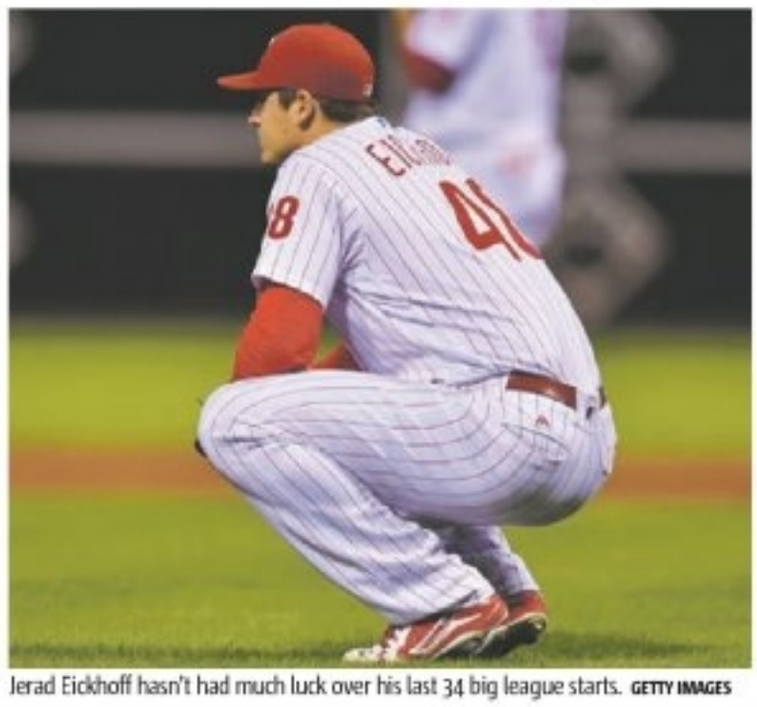
Phillies' Eickhoff can't do it all himself, so where's the run support?


Jerad Eickhoff hasn't had much luck over his last 34 big league starts. GETTY IMAGES

Wednesday's 2-0 loss by the Phillies' Jerad Eickhoff was nothing new.

The 26-year-old curveball hurler led the Phillies in innings pitched and ERA last season and showed as much promise as any young pitcher in the majors.

But his record, 11-14, told a different story.

In 20 of 33 starts, Eickhoff threw six or more innings and allowed three or less runs, among the best in the majors in quality starts. His first of 2017 was similar as he allowed two runs to the Reds, one of which came on a perfect curveball that was creamed for a solo homer by Joey Votto.

"The homer to Votto, the 1-0 curveball, it's kind of one of those things where I threw one of my better pitches," Eickhoff said. "You just tip your cap. I think it might have fooled him a little but he was able to keep his hands back and put the barrel on it and he's strong enough to put it out of the park."

Eickhoff was given four hits and no runs of support in the second game of the season. Last season he averaged 3.58 runs per game in support, the sixth worst of every pitcher in the majors.

In addition to his curve, Eickhoff is also known for his control, boasting one of the better strikeout to walk ratios in baseball.

Every five days the Phils will trot their 6-foot-4 right-hander to the mound for the remainder of the season. And as history has shown, the Phillies will have a good chance to win every single one of them. The questions is, can the Phillies muster up enough support so the talented pitcher isn't hung out to dry every week?

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Should Eagles try and trade for Seahawks' Sherman?

The Eagles are in desperate need of cornerback help.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
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The Eagles would benefit mightily from trading for Richard Sherman. GETTY IMAGES

It's a badly kept NFL secret that the Seahawks are considering making a move to send Pro Bowl cornerback Richard Sherman elsewhere in order to improve in other areas.

It's a continuing trend for teams this season, with New Orleans' incessant shopping of Brandin Cooks one of the latest examples.

The Patriots — who took the bait and made a move for Cooks earlier this offseason — were rumored to be interested in trading for Sherman, but it appears the team has bowed out for now.

So will Seattle get any takers for arguably their best asset?

The Eagles are an interesting candidate.

Thoroughly in need of help at cornerback, their creative front office already made a move for a defensive tackle, swapping third rounders (and dropping down 25 spots) to acquire Timmy Jernigan from the Ravens a few days ago. If the Eagles considered making a first-round pick swap (offering No. 14 in exchange for No. 26) would that be enough?

The Seahawks have made it clear they want help on the offensive line, and the Eagles have a little bit of depth there. Don't expect the club to shop off Lane Johnson or Jason Peters anytime soon, but they could part with youngster Isaac Seumalo or Halapoulivaati Vaitai in a trade.

Sherman would be an incredible fit in Jim Schwartz' man-coverage secondary and his football acumen makes him a virtual coach on the field, but the 29-year-old is due nearly $13 million this year. He has an opt-out before two more huge $11 million years come into effect in 2018 and 2019.

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Free pickup!
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PLAY OUR NEWS QUIZ, WIN $100! (see page 2)

metro.us/games

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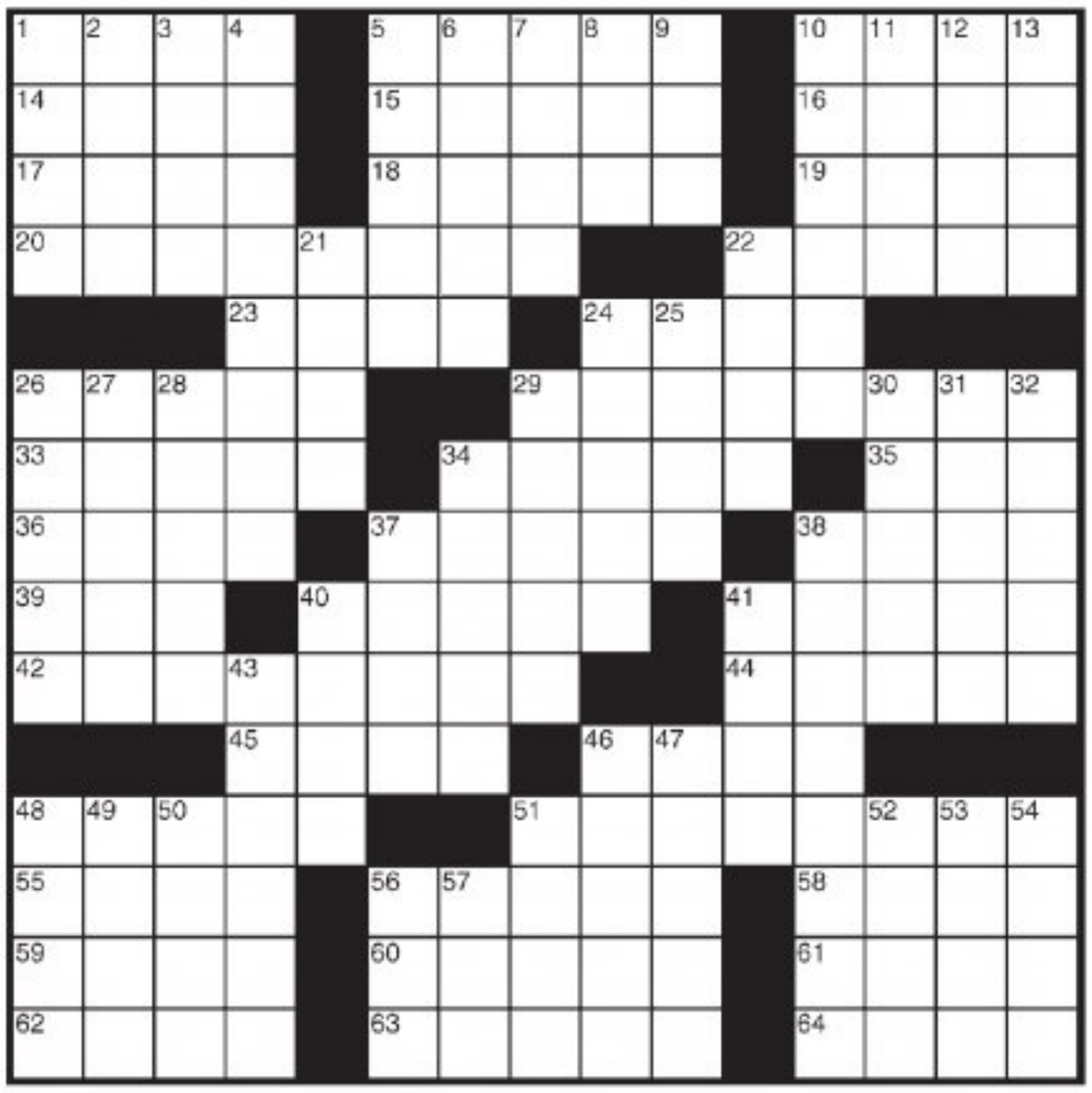

Across
1 Bothersome sort
5 Urged, with "on"
10 Responds
14 "Miami Vice" cop
15 Babble on
16 Mr. Atkins of country music
17 Goddess's statue
18 Drab, as colors
19 Moon ring
20 Big-hearted
22 – Khan
23 Frisk about
24 Spanish noblemen
26 Wanted-poster word
29 Screams (2 wds.)
33 Far-reaching view
34 Dry white wine
35 Any ship
36 Equal to the task
37 Cut of beef
38 Slant
39 Umbrage
40 Scare badly
41 Walrus hunter
42 Some from the Baltics
44 Ill-humored
45 Pinnacle
46 Very thin model
48 Rings up
51 Scuffed along
55 Jai –
56 Sand unit
58 Mark's successor
59 Retina cells
60 Coat for a house
61 Nasty mood
62 Bad-mannered
63 Monica of tennis
64 Capture

Down
1 Math subj.
2 Broad-based
3 Computer graphic
4 Put up with
5 – Downs (racetrack)
6 Cluster
7 Schmoozes
8 Dog days in Dijon
9 "– Rosenkavalier"
10 Downhiller's run
11 Whale chaser
12 Football cheer
13 Ancient colonnade
21 Sub – (secretly)
22 – -jerk reaction
24 Enjoy a pint
25 Ape a pig
26 Do the trick
27 Virgo's neighbor
28 Archipelago dot
29 Great disorder
30 Willow shoot
31 Orange-and-white rental (hyph.)
32 Peevish
34 Avignon's river
37 Canned meat
38 Most deceitful
40 Incites Rover
41 Get real! (2 wds.)
43 Bag
46 Bellyache
47 Cousins' moms
48 "It Walks by Night" author
49 Baseball family name
50 Alan or Cheryl
51 Lift anchor
52 Green moth
53 Mr. Satie
54 Be overfond
56 JAMA readers
57 – Dawn Chong

metro.us/sudoku

easy

9	6		1			5		7
		3				8		4
		5			7		6	
5	3				8			
	4			2			8	
			4				9	3
	9		7			1		
1		6				4		
7		4			5		2	6

hard

8		6			3		7	5
3				5	1	9		
			8					
9		3		1			2	
5								9
	2			6		5		1
					4			
		5	1	8				6
1	8		9			4		7

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Put in the time and do your due diligence when it comes to productivity and living up to your promises. Avoid temptation and unpredictable people.

Taurus Your insight into opportunities, financial gains and negotiations will help you come out on top. Deal with money matters and health issues quickly to ensure success.

Gemini Rethink matters that pertain to how or with whom you live before you move forward. An emotional incident will leave you feeling uncertain.

Cancer Expand your interests. Attend an exhibit, set up dinner plans or learn something new. Show enthusiasm, but don't feel compelled to sponsor someone else's goal.

Leo You'll find it difficult to say no to someone offering you a good time. Consider if the experience is worth the consequences of wasted money and negative reaction.

Virgo Share your feelings. Discuss your goals and take care of the needs of those in your life. A good deed will be rewarding in a small but meaningful way.

Libra Get involved in home improvements. If you don't speak up, you cannot complain if you don't like the way things unfold. Be willing to do whatever you can to cut your costs.

Scorpio Take work home or start a home-based business. Your determination and hard work will not be in vain, as long as you avoid the temptation of expanding too fast.

Sagittarius Share your plans with anyone who will be affected by the decisions you make. Listen to peoples' concerns and make sure your ideas include your loved ones.

Capricorn A financial gain is heading your way. Proceed with caution. Someone will be eager to take advantage of you and your good fortune. Silence is golden.

Aquarius Someone will come to your rescue. Ask for help and offer incentives to ensure you get things done properly. A partnership will help you with your responsibilities.

Pisces Step up and take charge. Believe in your skills, talent and experience to help you overcome any obstacle you face. Trust your intuition and forge ahead. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

A	L	P	H	A	■	Q	U	I	D	■	Z	O	O	M
L	I	L	A	C	■	U	R	S	A	■	A	M	B	O
U	S	A	G	E	■	O	D	I	N	■	N	E	I	L
M	A	I	■	T	U	T	U	S	■	D	I	N	E	D
■	■	N	O	I	R	E	■	P	R	E	S	S	■	■
E	N	T	I	C	E	■	C	H	E	E	R	■	■	■
L	E	I	S	■	■	T	I	A	R	A	■	Y	A	P
S	A	F	E	T	Y	I	N	N	U	M	B	E	R	S
E	L	F	■	W	I	N	E	D	■	■	L	A	N	A
■	■	■	W	I	P	E	S	■	F	L	O	R	E	T
■	W	O	O	L	S	■	■	P	R	A	W	N	■	■
P	E	A	R	L	■	Y	O	Y	O	S	■	I	R	A
E	E	K	S	■	K	A	R	L	■	H	O	N	E	D
E	P	E	E	■	O	L	E	O	■	E	D	G	E	D
L	Y	N	N	■	N	E	O	N	■	D	E	S	K	S

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Current Year – Prior Years – Amendments – 2nd Chance Reviews

Philadelphia & New Jersey Tax Sites Near YOU!!!

Center City
The Domb Center - Super Site
121 S Broad Street, 10th Floor
Mon - Thurs 10am - 7pm
Fri 10am - 2pm & **Sat** 9am - 3pm

North Philadelphia
North Central Financial Center
1415 N Broad St., Suite 222
Mon - Thurs 10am - 7pm
Fri 10am - 2pm

Southwest Philadelphia
Ebenezer Church
5649 Christian St.
Mon & Tues 12pm - 6:30pm
Wed & Thurs 10am - 2pm • **Sat** 9am - 3pm

Germantown
CareerLink Northwest
5847 Germantown Ave.
Mon, Tues & Wed 4pm - 8pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

Northeast Philadelphia
Northeast Tax Site - Near the Gap Factory
2115 Cottman Ave., Unit 45
Mon - Thurs 10am - 7pm
Fri 10am - 2pm & **Sat** 9am - 3pm

South Philadelphia
United Communities
2029 S 8th St.
Tues & Thurs 3pm - 7pm
Sat 9am - 3pm

Rutgers University
Camden County Library
310 North 5th Street,
Camden, NJ 08102
Wed 4pm - 7pm
Fri 1pm - 5pm & **Sat** 10am - 2pm

Voorhees Camden
County Library
203 Laurel Road,
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Thurs 12pm - 7pm

Cathedral Kitchen
Single Stop
1514 Federal Street,
Camden, NJ 08105
Mon 10am - 6pm
Tues & Wed 3pm - 7pm

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myfreetaxes.com

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For additional locations & information in PA and Southern NJ Visit www.cwfphilly.org

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Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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